

Appl. No. : 10/644,443
Filed : August 19, 2003

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for his careful and thoughtful examination of the present application. By way of summary, Claims 1-8, 10, 13 and 14 were pending in this application. In the present amendment, the Applicants have amended Claims 6, 7, 13 and 14, and canceled Claims 5 and 8. Accordingly, Claims 1-4, 6-7, 10, 13 and 14 remain pending for consideration.

Allowable Subject Matter - Claims 1-4, 6-7, 10, 13 and 14

The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 6 and 7. Pursuant to the Office Action, the Applicants have rewritten Claims 6 and 7 into independent form to include all of the limitations of the corresponding base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claims 6 and 7 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 13 and 14 previously depended on canceled Claim 5. Applicants have amended this dependency such that both claims now depend from independent Claim 6. The Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claims 13 and 14 are now allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 6.

The Applicants also thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 1-4 and 10.

Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

The Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance to the extent that not all the claims include each of the structures recited in the Examiner's Statement. Also, to the extent that there is any implication that the patentability of any claim rests on the recitation of a single feature, the Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's Statement because it is the combination of features recited in each claim that makes that claim patentable.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have endeavored to address all of the Examiner's concerns as expressed in the outstanding Office Action. In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same. If the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to initiate the same with the undersigned.

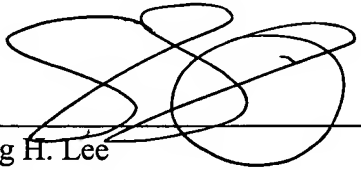
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Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 2-1-05

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